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MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC, HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE PHELAN BUILDING, SAN FRANCISCO, MARCH 25, 1911, AT 8:00 P. M.

President FREMONT MORSE in the chair.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the previous annual meeting be approved as published in the *Publications* of the Society. Carried.

Verbal reports from the standing Committees on Finance, Publications, and Library were received and approved.

The report of the Donohoe Comet-Medal Committee was read by the Secretary in the absence of the chairman of the committee, and was as follows:—

REPORT OF THE DONOHOE COMET-MEDAL COMMITTEE.

The comets discovered in the year 1910 were the following:—

Comet *a* 1910, an unexpected comet, seen first in Orange Free State, apparently as early as January 15th. The first observation was made by Mr. R. T. S. INNES at Johannesburg, South Africa, on January 17, 1910. Notice of its discovery was sent out by him.

Comet *b* 1910, an unexpected comet, discovered by Rev. JOEL METCALF at Taunton, Massachusetts, on August 10, 1910.

Comet *c* 1910, D'Arrest's periodic comet, detected on its return by M. GONNESSIAT at Algiers on August 26th.

Comet *d* 1910, Brook's periodic comet, detected on its return by Messrs. AITKEN and WILSON at Mount Hamilton on September 28th.

Comet *e* 1910, Faye's periodic comet, detected on its return by M. CERRULI at Terano on November 8th. This was at first believed to be an unexpected comet, but its identity was established as soon as the preliminary elements were computed.

No award of the comet-medal is possible at present for comet *a* 1910, as it is not known who first saw the comet.

In accordance with the statutes, the medal has been awarded to Mr. METCALF for the discovery of comet *b*.

W. W. CAMPBELL,
SIDNEY D. TOWNLEY,
HEBER D. CURTIS,
Comet-Medal Committee.

The report of the Treasurer of the Society, as printed elsewhere, with the favorable endorsement of the Auditing Committee, was read and placed on file.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following names for Directors of the Society and Committee on Publication, to serve for the ensuing year:—

For Directors—R. G. AITKEN, W. W. CAMPBELL, W. H. CROCKER, C. S. CUSHING, J. D. GALLOWAY, G. E. HALE, A. O. LEUSCHNER, A. G. MCADIE, E. J. MOLERA, D. S. RICHARDSON, S. D. TOWNLEY.

Publication Committee—S. D. TOWNLEY, J. D. MADDRILL, H. D. CURTIS.

On motion of Mr. ZIEL, seconded by Mr. GALLOWAY, the name of CHARLES BURCKHALTER was also placed in nomination for Director.

The Chair appointed J. D. GALLOWAY and F. R. ZIEL as tellers, and ballots were distributed to the members.

Pending the collection of the ballots, the retiring President, Mr. FREMONT MORSE, announced the award to JULES-HENRI POINCARÉ, the distinguished French astronomer, of the Bruce Medal for the year 1911. Mr. MORSE proceeded to read a carefully prepared and very instructive paper on the life and scientific work of the medalist, inviting particular attention to the fact that the value attached by men of science to the Bruce Medal was based largely upon the method of making nominations for the honor, as provided by the statutes of the Society relative to the subject.

Mr. F. R. ZIEL, special committeeman for procuring the Bruce Medal and having it properly engraved, explained the action taken by him, and stated that the medal should have been received in time for exhibition to the members at the annual meeting. Some delay, either in transmission or on the part of the French mint, had disappointed this expectation. It was expected in a few days, and, after inspection by the officers of the Society, would be duly forwarded to the recipient in Paris.

Professor HERBERT C. WILSON, editor of *Popular Astronomy,* was then introduced as the principal speaker of the evening. The latter delivered an interesting lecture on the subject of "Life in Other Worlds," dealing more particularly with the question as to whether or not such worlds are the theaters of human life as we know it. This popular theme, which never fails to appeal to the imagination of mankind, was skillfully handled and gave great pleasure to an attentive audience of about two hundred persons. The lecture was illustrated by many beautiful lantern slides.

At the conclusion of the addresses the ballots were collected and counted, and the President announced that the following officers had been elected for the ensuing year:—

For Directors—R. G. AITKEN, W. W. CAMPBELL, W. H. CROCKER, C. S. CUSHING, J. D. GALLOWAY, G. E. HALE, A. O. LEUSCHNER, A. G. MCADIE, CHARLES BURCKHALTER, D. S. RICHARDSON, S. D. TOWNLEY.

Publication Committee—S. D. TOWNLEY, J. D. MADDRILL, H. D. CURTIS.

On motion of Mr. ZIEL, seconded by Mr. LEUSCHNER, a resolution was passed endorsing and ratifying all the official acts of the retiring Board of Directors for the fiscal year ending with March 25, 1911.

Adjourned.